

THE BEE

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W. CALVIN CHASE, EDITOR.

BAD FAITH.

If any man is fool enough to believe that politicians enter political fights for love, the BEE takes occasion to state that politicians and those who are not politicians, want offices as well as money. It is ridiculous for one to assert that he is a Democrat or a Republican from principle. Some people are Democrats because it is to their interest to be so. Others are Republicans because it is convenient when Republicans are in power. The Democrats who are in will after declare that they are Republicans, and so it is with Republicans under a Democratic administration. People serve parties for what they can get out of them. Men want offices as well as influence and when you hear a man charge another with being a Democrat or a Republican for office, your can always put it down that there is something behind him that prohibits him from applying for an office.

VAGS.

Judge Miller in the Police Court a few days ago gave certain officers to understand that they could not arrest every person whom they happen to see on the street, as vags. This is a new dodge that certain officers have in order to make cases, as well as making a record to enable them to get a promotion. Judge Miller seems to understand, and gave them a good lecture in no uncertain language.

DON'T FOOL THE PEOPLE.

There seems to be some trouble in the American office. Editor Thornton who predicted the death of the BEE some time ago is about to retire. The type and the thousands (?) of dollars that have been spent in the purchase of material has turned out that the managers of the American rented the job and newspaper type that is owned by the Sunday Herald. There is no use of misrepresenting things to the people Washington has been seized by just such enterprises, and when a legitimate institution is started the people entertain the opinion that all are just alike.

THE BABY ACT.

Mr. T. Thomas Fortune has declined to serve as chairman of the executive committee of the Afro-American Press Association and has tendered his resignation as a member of the association. The last talk the editor of the BEE had with Mr. Fortune he decided to serve and we both discussed the nature of the programme that should be presented at the next meeting of the Association. This is the best evidence in the world that Mr. Fortune lacks stability and shows his anger over his last defeat.

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

EDITOR OF THE BEE—Will you permit me space in your paper for the purpose of asking a question? Who is this man McGee? Is he the same man who remarked to me that there were no decent lady school teachers in Kansas City? Respectfully,

L. M. WILLIAMS.

As Mr. McGee is in the city he can better answer these questions. [Ed.]



LASTWOOD'S POSITION

He Makes a Strong and Clear Statement in Reply to McGee.

HIS DEFENSE OF THE PRESIDENT

Negro Democrats, He Says, Have No Cause to Fear Unjust Treatment.

EDITOR EVENING NEWS: Being in New York the latter part of last week, my attention was not called to Mr. McGee's letter in your issue of Saturday, "Scoring the League," in answer to my vindication of the Administration against his abusive attacks.

I unhesitatingly say again that Mr. McGee's letter of Saturday is more unreasonable and unnecessarily insolent to the Administration than his former attack. There is no cause for, nor is there any well founded dissatisfaction among negro Democrats, saying those who are said to be the secret employees of astute Republican politicians to affect the coming elections in Virginia, Ohio and Massachusetts, where there is a large negro vote. But I hope, and feel assured, that the colored leaders in these states will not be influenced by such reckless agitators.

Let us investigate impartially what the Administration has done to merit these attacks. It must be admitted that the negro vote has been blindly duped to oppose the Democratic party ever since reconstruction, and not until the general election of 1892 did any reasonable number of these voters break away from Republican rule. Let us contrast the action of the Harrison Administration with that of the present Cleveland Administration.

The Presidential appointments made by President Harrison were as follows: Lynch, Fourth Auditor, May, 1889; Townsend, Recorder of the Land Office, in June, 1889; Douglass, Minister to Hayti, July, 1889; Bruce, Recorder of Deeds, February, 1890; Durham, consul at San Domingo, where even a vacancy existed, April, 1890. This was the record of a radical Republican Administration toward its loyal colored voters who had blindly followed that party for a quarter of a century.

Mr. Cleveland, it is true, has made as yet but one colored appointment, Mr. H. C. Smith, of Alabama, appointed in June to Tamatave, Madagascar, recently changed to the more desirable place of Santos, Brazil, a place not heretofore held by a colored Republican. We find, therefore, that a Republican administration, with which the negro as a whole had been affiliated ever since reconstruction, did not make greater haste in recognizing the claims of negro Republicans than has been charged against President Cleveland by Mr. McGee.

I ask the question and leave the answer to a just and reasonable public. Are we, as negro Democrats, entitled to the same ratio of representation at the hands of the Democratic party as negro Republicans are entitled to at the hands of the Republican party? Ingalls has answered the question.

DEMOCRATS FOR REVENUE ONLY. I plead guilty to the charge under this head that my affiliation with the Democratic party dates no further back than the spring of 1862, when I published in the month of April over my signature in the New York Age the statement that if Mr. Harrison defeated Mr. Blaine, Judge Gresham and other possibilities, naming Sherman and Lincoln, by machine politics in the Minneapolis convention, I would burn my bridges behind me and support Mr. Cleveland, who I felt assured would be nominated by the Democratic convention to meet at Chicago before the state of New York was reached in the roll call of States.

This result was brought about and true to my public declaration I offered my services to the Democratic National committee by letter from San Domingo, in August last, came on in September, entered the canvass under the management of General A. B. Upshaw, representing the bureau of colored speakers under the National committee, who recommended me to the State committee of New York, managed by Lieut. Gov. Sheehan. I stumbled in the city and State of New York and in the State of New Jersey, where my speeches were commented upon by the press as among the best delivered. Congressmen English, at Newark, pronounced that speech as one of the best he had listened to during the canvass. Both General Upshaw and the State committee will say that my services were highly appreciated and in such demand during the latter part of the campaign that I could not fill all of the calls that were being made for L. C. Moore, of Mississippi, and myself. Several had to be filled by my friend Hon. J. Ross Stewart. I did receive at the hands of the National and State committees my weekly expense during the canvass, if this can be called Democracy for revenue only.

It can be proved, however, that aside from the sacrifices I made in coming here to enter the canvass, that on my arrival in New York a prominent Republican, interested in San Domingo enterprises, offered me \$1,500 if I would return by the same steamer to attend to some business there and not take the stump against Harrison. I told him I could not do it; that I was bound to make the canvass for Mr. Cleveland. If it suited his convenience I would go after the election for half the money. It did suit his convenience, and I went down in January and settled his affairs to his entire satisfaction. Under the

circumstances, I deem it but just to myself to make this personal explanation to show that I am not a Democrat for revenue only.

The Democratic party until 1892 was with but few exceptions the white man's party. The great landslide from the ranks of the Republican party in favor of Mr. Cleveland and tariff reform which swept over into the ranks of the Democratic party thousands of white and colored Republicans whose services were just as potent and acceptable then as Mr. McGee's and his associates, ought not now to be traduced by the so-called old-line colored Democrats, whose voices were not then heard in the land, for our loyalty and support of the administration brought into existence in part by our support, although we came over as late as 1892, and some of us to stay.

NEGRO DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE.

The League is not necessarily an office seeking organization, but is made up of loyal Democrats from all over the country, intended to encourage negro Democracy to start by the party of reform and to withstand the mischievous attacks of intriguing Republican politicians through the agencies they are using to disrupt, if possible, the negro vote in the coming elections.

I do not disguise the fact that the League is in favor of its able and popular president, the Hon. C. J. H. Taylor, of Kansas, for Recorder of Deeds, and such well known colored Democrats as J. E. Mothers, of Albany, for Fourth Auditor; the Hon. T. McCant Stewart, of New York, Peter H. Clark, J. Mil Turner, and others, for such places as the President may deem fit to give them, and I personally am in favor of myself, on my record and the recommendations of business Democrats in the State Department, for Minister to Hayti or Consul General to San Domingo, at the election of the President and Department of State. There is no hypocrisy in this.

As chairman of the Executive Committee of the League, my advice to negro Democrats is to beware of schemers pretending to be Democrats in one breath and abusing the Administration with the other. The Republican leaders are said to have their agents here to seduce the very elect if possible. Here are negro Democrats, poor as Job's turkey, who profess not to be office-seekers, but posing as leaders of the anti-Administration stripe, without being able to show what they have done to entitle them to such self-constituted leadership, authorizing them to hurl their attacks against the Administration, to disorganize our ranks and to cause a revolt among our voters in the coming fall campaign.

Let colored Democrats be watchful. We have no cause to be dissatisfied with the President or his Cabinet officers. If we do our duty as Democrats in the coming election and not follow the kickers and grumblers we will be properly treated, not only by the National Administration, but by the States where our efforts will help to lead the party to success.

Abuse, coercion and insolence cannot win in politics, nor in any other walk of life. I do not think that the administration at this early stage of its existence can afford to place a premium upon kicking and disorganization. Let us give the President a fair show before beginning to complain and condemn the Democratic party, and be sure that our cause is real and not imaginary before we begin to kick.

The League is an administration organization, guarding the interest of colored Democracy, and will stand by the President and his policy through thick and thin, regardless of criticism and opposition, until it has just cause to do otherwise.

VOICE OF WARNING.

I would call the attention of negro Democrats throughout the country to the fact that they have not been any more ignored by the white Democrats. The principal offices in the principal States have not yet been filled. Not a single appointment in the District has yet been made. The Recorder of Deeds, colored, is holding over in common with the Marshal and the Commissioners, white. The Fourth Auditor, colored, is holding over in common with the Public Printer and Superintendent of the Census and other prominent white Republicans. You can clearly see, therefore, that Mr. McGee's tirade against the Administration, premature and uncalled for, predict that before the end of the year, or even another month, that Mr. Cleveland will give to his colored friends equal representation in proportion to our numbers in the party, and even greater than any Republican President has done since reconstruction. I hope, however, that he will place no premium upon kicking or disorganization.

The League stands ready with its best men throughout the country to assert these principles upon the stump and through the public journals in all the States of Virginia, Ohio and Massachusetts during the coming fall contests. I hope that negro Democracy will not be circumscribed. The party has a splendid opportunity now to reach out for and encourage the accession to our ranks bold and fearless leaders of the race, who have thus far been ignored by the Republican party, such as the Hon. John M. Langston, of Virginia; ex-Governor Pineback, of Louisiana; and others who have not been continuous pensioners under the past Republican regime, to swell the ranks of negro Democracy and make our forces potent for good results to the race and the party and not limit our influence by personal jealousies and narrow-mindedness.

It cannot be denied that no Administration has ever been confronted by the grave public questions which met Mr. Cleveland upon the threshold of his assuming the reins of the Government.

The large surplus, made possible by the sound financial and economical policy of his past Administration, was not only absorbed by the reckless and ruinous policy of the Harrison administration and Republican Billion dollar Congress, but the financial ruin of the Treasury, the invasion of the \$100,000,000 reserve fund and the destruction of the business concerns of the country were made imminent.

The great financial ability of Secretary Carlisle and of the entire Administration has been taxed to the uttermost to keep intact the nation's credit and to obviate the issue of Government bonds forthcoming by ex-Secretary Foster, of the Harrison Administration, placing the Government at the mercy of speculators. The effect of the Sherman silver law upon the finances of the country has absorbed the attention of Mr. Cleveland's admin-

istration, making it imperative for him to call an extra session of Congress, when his attention might have been given to other public measures.

If in these extremities we, as negro Democrats, have been seemingly ignored as friends of the administration, I am sure it is entitled to our sympathies and support instead of our abuse and the ungenerous onslaught of Mr. McGee, especially at this particular time.

H. C. C. ASTWOOD, Chairman Executive Committee, Negro National Democratic League.

\$3.50 TO LURAY CAVERNS AND RETURN. Special train will B. & O. station, Washington, at 8:30 a. m., Thursday, July 27, arriving at Luray at 1:30 p. m. Four hours at the Caverns. Round trip fare, including reserved seat on train and admission to the caves, \$3.50.

CLARA TO LOUISE.

MY DEAR LOUISE: The household received your letter with great pleasure and at present it is the topic of discussion.

I have been informed that Mrs. J. W. Mason-Layton and the professor intend to give the full details to the public concerning their marriage, which has created a great talk. However, I am relieved of a reason for thinking they were in fault by being informed that the trustees of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church granted them the privilege of the church before their invitations were issued, but it was revoked afterwards by the deacons. The question is now, what is the canon law of the church? The public is anxiously waiting for the answer on the other side, after which I shall give my views on the whole.

Referring to divorces and marriages men and women are often tempted to marry for money, property, education, beauty, etc., when the chief object of a happy marriage life is ignored. They should seek one's disposition and find out his or her moral habits. I am not a believer in the old maxim, "It takes a life-time to find one out," but I do believe it will take equally as long if you don't find out in the right way. We should study human nature a little more. For an instance a gentleman will not insist on giving a lady a pleasant time on the first meeting. A lady will not accept such hospitalities. All such has a tendency to make an unhappy marriage life and is sure to bring about a divorce suit.

FASHION.

Midsummer is upon us and all our thoughts turn lightly to the cool and airy muslins, the gossamer-like gossamer and dainty callies. None but the cooling airs of mountain and seashore seem endurable, and even then the heat pursues us. To the most unobservant eye it must be evident that the present season has introduced many new styles.

Shirts and jackets, ruffles and lapels, sleeves and collars, have all undergone a change, until to-day the styles of last year seem almost antiquated. There is so much diversity in the style of the fashions of the present day that it is quite a difficult matter to know what to wear. The whole of our costume must be cut quite a different style to that of a few months ago.

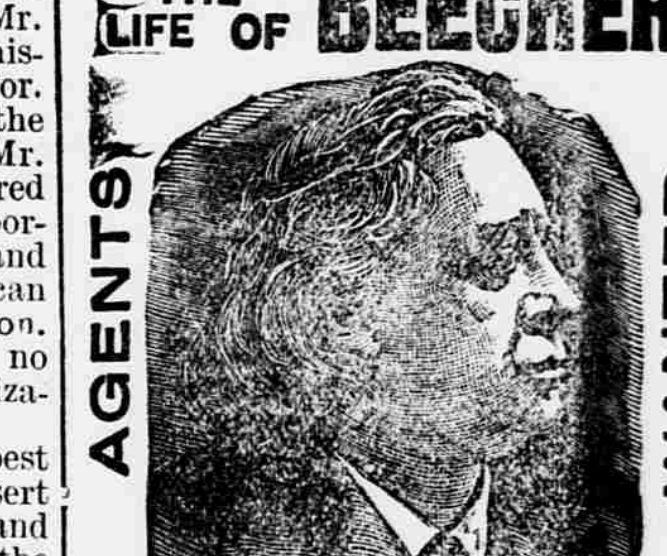
In colors heliotrope has held its own, and is by no means a shade of the past; pale tones of green for evening wear have the greatest success.

Yours truly, CLARA.

CHEAP EXCURSION TO LURAY CAVERNS.

Thursday, July 27, a special train will leave B. & O. station at 8:30 a. m., giving excursionists four hours at the caves. Round trip fare, including reserved seat on train and admission to the Caverns \$3.50.

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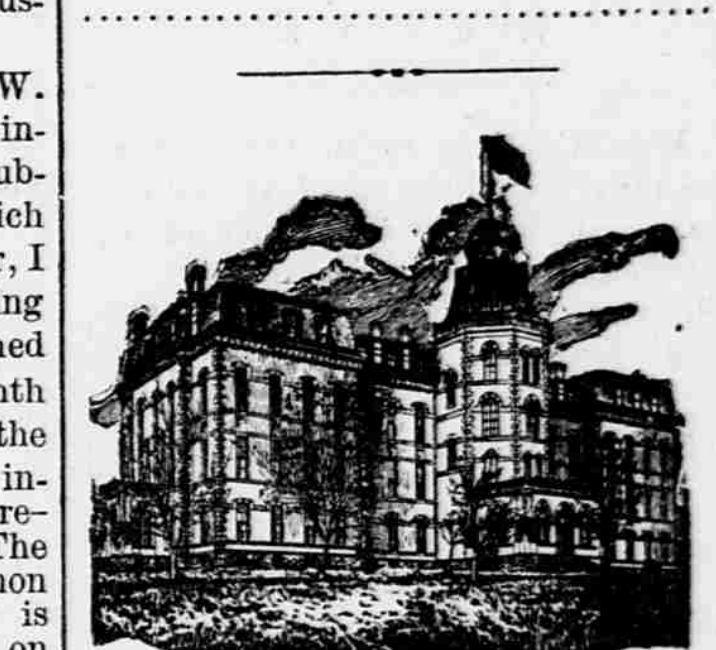
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TO THE COLORED PRESS.

Office the Historian of the Colored Press Association of the United States.—1109 Ist. n. w., Washington, D. C., May 8, '93

By virtue of a resolution accompanied with the report of the last historian, of the colored Press Association, Mr. T. Thomas Fortune, adopted at a meeting of the last press convention held in Philadelphia, Pa., in September, 1892 to the effect, that each colored editor or publisher of a newspaper shall mail to the historian of said association a copy of his paper, so that a correct record may be kept and to enable the historian to make a concise report to the association of all papers published in the United States by negroes. It is also hoped that, each publisher whose name does not appear in his paper will furnish the historian with his correct editorial staff.

Fraternally yours,
W. Calvin Chase,
Historian of the Colored Press Association of the United States.

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A MODERN BORGIA

THE STARTLING CRIMES OF DR. MEYER AND HIS WIFE.

A Professional Poisoner, who Lived by Killing Victims Whose Lives He Had Insured—He Murders Wife, Child, Servants and Friends to Satisfy His Greed.

New York, July 18.—The arrival here from Detroit of Detective Gerding and Trainer with Dr. Henry C. F. Meyer, who, with his wife, is charged with poisoning Ludwig Brandt, opens up a chapter in modern crime that rivals the Middle Age doings of princely Borgias of Venice.

The exposure of the crimes of Meyer and his wife was due to the attempt to collect from the Mutual Life Insurance Company, of this city, a \$3,500 life insurance policy on one Gustav Heinrich Maria Joseph Baum, who died in this city in April, 1892. Baum, whose real name was Ludwig Brandt, took out his policy in Chicago. Evidence goes to show that he had entered into a conspiracy with Dr. and Mrs. Meyer to defraud insurance companies. He travelled from place to place, taking out life policies in different names. In April, 1892, Meyer and Baum came on to New York, and here the latter was taken sick at a hotel and subsequently died. It will be shown that Meyer poisoned Baum by the administration of antimony, being assisted in the work by a Swede named Wilmers. Meyer and his wife subsequently called at the office of the Mutual Life Insurance Company in New York, the latter claiming to be the wife of Baum, and claimed the payment of the policy. The suspicious of the officers of the company had been excited by an inquiry into Baum's record, and they therefore questioned his pretended widow sharply. She broke down and Meyer endeavored to straighten the case up, but only caused deeper suspicion. The result was an inquiry that led to the disinterment of Baum's remains, and an autopsy by Fred Doremus revealed the fact that he had died of poison.

Further inquiry into the case of Meyer and his wife revealed sufficient evidence to show that they were professional poisoners who for a series of years had been working frauds on life insurance companies.

Meyer is charged with at least five murders in the course of his career. The indications are that he poisoned his first wife, his own child, Henry Gildeman, of Chicago; Ludwig Brandt, in New York, an alleged wife in Toledo, and that he tried to poison various other persons.

Dr. Henry C. F. Meyer is a native of Minden, Prussia. His age is about forty. When he came to this country is not definitely settled, but began practice as a physician in Chicago in 1878. He married, and soon afterwards his first wife died under circumstances which look suspicious enough in the light of subsequent events, but which attracted no unfavorable comment at the time. An insurance on her life was promptly paid.

Among the young doctor's patients was a well-to-do grocer, Henry Gildeman, who had a store in North Sedgwick street. Gildeman died suddenly in 1883, leaving some property, an insurance on his life and a buxom widow. By marrying the widow shortly afterwards the doctor acquired both the property and the insurance money. Not long after the marriage his first wife's son was found dead in the bathtub. As he had been in excellent health up to his sudden taking off the matter created much talk. The police now deemed it time to interfere. Dr. Meyer was arrested, but as no tangible evidence could be found against him he was discharged. The insurance money was paid over, and the nine days' wonder became a very tame thing in a town.

Then the wife found herself suffering from a slow complaint which threatened her life. Believing that she was being poisoned she left her home and her husband and procured a divorce. She is still alive, but her constitution is shattered, and to this day she believes that her life was threatened.

About the year 1888 he met his present wife in Chicago. Her maiden name was Greaser. She was the daughter of a thrifty, elderly German of the north side, who had accumulated considerable property. It was soon discovered that the old gentleman's name had been forged to a heavy life insurance in the Germania Life Insurance Company. He was slowly dying, but when removed from Meyer's charge recovered his health. A warrant was issued against Dr. Meyer. He fled the city, but was arrested in Denver, where he went under the name of Dennis Oswald; was taken back to Chicago, tried and acquitted.

Then followed the poisoning of Brandt in this city, for which crime Meyer is likely to be brought to judgment. Meyer turned up later at Toledo, where he induced his servant girl, Mary Neiss, to impersonate his wife in taking out a life insurance policy. She became very sick, and, suspecting Meyer wished to poison her, fled from his house. He subsequently secured another servant, whom he insured, and who died soon afterwards. On his attempt to collect the insurance an investigation was made and he fled from Toledo.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company was pursuing its investigations, however, and Meyer was arrested in Denver upon a warrant issued by Coroner Schuch of this city. It is believed that his trial will result in other startling revelations.

Paris Not in Merry Mood.

Paris, July 15.—The anniversary of the fall of the Bastille is usually celebrated with much rejoicing, but yesterday the fetes in Paris were tame and the customary demonstrations were conspicuously absent. This is due to the recent riots. The Municipal Council, upon which heretofore much of the expense of the celebration has fallen, took no part in the observance of the anniversary this year. Anarchists took advantage of the day to post incendiary placards, keeping the police busy searching out and destroying the flaming red posters.

Mal-treated Americans.

Shanghai, July 11.—It is reported that a fanatic mob in the province of Shoo-Tung severely maltreated an American missionary a few days ago. The Mandarins in Hankow and Sung-Pu are now known to have connived at the recent murders of Swedish missionaries. The natives, after having maltreated the bodies of the missionaries, had them placed in a coffin and buried.